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**August 5, 2005**

**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**ATTN: Ms Michelle Renee Clement**  
**Examiner**

**Subject: My Response to 06/14/2005 Office Action Summary**  
**Name of Applicant Robert Len Aske**  
**Application No. 10/613,944**  
**Art Unit 3641**  
**Filing Date 07 July 2003**  
**Title of Invention SAFETY CARTRIDGE**

**Dear Ms Clement,**

Thank you for your helpful advice and council given in the subject 06/14/2005 Office Action Summary and 06/27/2005 telephone conversation with regard to my patent application on the SAFETY CARTRIDGE. I'm currently negotiating with a small assembly company in the Minneapolis area who is interested in my invention. They feel that patent coverage of my safety cartridge is absolutely necessary. They like the product and believe it will save lives and should sell based on the size of the market (97 million handguns + 173 long guns in the USA as of 2004). My invention won a gold medal at the Minnesota Inventors Congress Expo 2003 (see attached information). Sales of 100,000 safety cartridges per year seems possible and would provide at least five full time manufacturing jobs in the US based on piece part and assembly labor of 92 hours per thousand and generate \$1,000,000 at the retail level at a price of \$10 each.

I received cost estimates from three patent attorneys who I have done business with through my former employer, Honeywell Inc. (Merchant & Gould and Moore, Hansen and Sumner PLLP) and Rick Martin Patent Attorneys (who I met at the Minnesota Inventors Congress). Their cost to rewrite my patent application was between \$4500 and \$6500. This would be in addition to my current investment of \$9000 and future USPTO issue and maintenance fees approaching \$4000 over the next 11.5 years. If I'm successful in licensing the assembly company, my royalty will be no more than \$0.10 each. The royalty would also include my time to help them be successful .... I've already spent nearly 2000 hours developing the safety cartridge and have conducted sufficient tests to assure product reliability of .988 @ 90% confidence level. It would take at least two years of 100,000/yr production to break-even and more than two years at lower production rates and this does not include the value of my time which is valued at \$50/hr when I do consulting work at Honeywell, Alliant Techsystems and IZEX Technologies. Based on the above cost information, I decided to revise the safety cartridge patent application myself rather than invest the additional \$4500 - \$6500 for a patent attorney who charge approximately \$265/hr.

Your good advice on arrangement and content of the specification, the use of Form 1449 for References, submission of patent search results separate from the patent application write-up, providing copies of all patents reviewed in my search, correcting errors in my claims, and shortening the abstract to less than 150 words (reduced from 252 words to 145 words) was strictly followed .... please see the following enclosures:

- (1) Patent Search dated May 1, 2002, Revised June 21, 2003
- (2) SAFETY CARTRIDGE Application No. 10/613,944

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*Robert L. Aske*

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